

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

A "Marked" Copy of the amended claims follows:

Application No. 10/020,739

Examiner: Douglas Watts

Art Unit 3724

Inventor: Michael Miller

For: IMPROVED UNIVERSAL FORK

Marked Copy of Claims - only those claims amended are shown.

Amended claims - marked

1. (once modified)

An improved universal fork comprising:

- a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
- b. a fork head having inner and outer tines, where said outer tines define curved outer edges;
- c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle on the central handle shaft, [where the handle is joined to the fork head,] where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat

side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press  
against.

8. (once modified)

An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, having

- 5      a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in diameter and circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined on its front portion to a fork head;
- 10     b. in which the fork head comprises inner tines and outer tines, and where the inner tines have angled sharpened ends, with the end portions of the inner tines having a decreased circumference, so that the tips will break off when a shearing stress is applied to them;
- 15     c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point along the length of the handle prior to the defined fork head, [where the handle is joined to the fork head,] where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.